

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-9 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the claims as follows:

- 1-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing nitrogen gas, comprising:  
a compressor, which generates compressed air; and  
a deoxidizing chamber, containing iron powder and a catalyst;  
an inlet formed in the deoxidizing chamber, from which the compressed air is  
supplied; and  
an outlet formed in the deoxidizing chamber, from which nitrogen gas deoxidized by  
the iron air power and the catalyst is led out.  
~~in which iron powder is provided and to which the compressed air is supplied such that the~~  
~~compressed air reacts with the iron powder to form iron oxide, so that oxygen contained in the~~  
~~compressed air is reduced to obtain remained nitrogen gas.~~
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein  
the catalyst ~~is comprised of~~ comprises sodium chloride.
13. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the  
deoxidizing chamber further contains ~~water is added to the iron powder.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein the deoxidizing chamber further contains a moisture retaining material ~~is added to the iron powder~~.
15. (Original) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a hollow fiber membrane, through which the compressed air is passed before being supplied to the deoxidizing chamber.
16. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a heat exchanger, which heats the compressed air before the compressed air passes through the hollow fiber chamber membrane.
17. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the hollow fiber membrane ~~is comprised of~~ comprises polyimide.
18. (Original) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a nitrogen generator according to a pressure swing absorption technique, through which the compressed air is passed before being supplied to the deoxidizing chamber.
19. (Currently Amended) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further comprising a throttle valve, arranged at an immediate downstream of the hollow fiber chamber membrane and operable to adjust a flow rate of the compressed air chamber passing through the hollow chamber membrane.

20. (Original) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a filter, which removes dusts from the nitrogen gas supplied from the deoxidizing chamber.
21. (Original) The producing apparatus as set forth in claim 18, wherein the nitrogen gas generator comprises:
- a first oxygen absorbing tank;
  - a first throttle valve, operable to adjust a flow rate of the compressed air passing through the first oxygen absorbing tank;
  - a second oxygen absorbing tank; and
  - a second throttle valve, operable to adjust a flow rate of the compressed air passing through the second oxygen absorbing tank.